(b) if so, when such a request was received; and

(c) the steps taken by the Ministry on that request?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) to (c) A proposal for granting Deemed to be University status to HIT, Hyderabad was received on 4th April, 2000 from the Government of Andhra Pradesh. Declaration of institution as Deemed University is a statutory process for which several conditions have to be met. The proposal is under consideration in the Ministry.

Cultivation of maize in U.P.

†*297. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is ample scope for cultivation of maize in Uttar Pradesh and proposal for one crore rupees Central assistance has been submitted by the State Government for development of maize crops in Bulandshahar, Deoria, Behraich and Lalitpur; and

(b) if so, the details of assistance provided by the Central Government so far to increase the yield of maize?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) Yes, Sir. There is ample scope for cultivation of maize in the country including Uttar Pradesh. The proposal for an amount of Rs. 99,29,62y- was received during 1998-99 from the State Government of U.P. (Dte. of Agriculture) for development of maize crop in Bulandshahar, Deoria, Behraich and Lalitpur district under Sub-programme on Maize-based Cropping System for Food Security in India as a part of GOI-UNDP Food Security Programme.

(b) Keeping in view the potential of maize in the State, an amount of Rs. l,ll,78,766^{v}- has been earmarked for U.P. for a period of four years beginning from 1999-2000 for the implementation of the Sub-

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

programme on Maize in the four districts *viz.* Bulandshahar, Dcoria, Behraich and Lalitpur. The main objective of the sub-programme is to increase the production and productivity of maize through transfer of available technologies and agricultural practices to resource poor small and marginal farmers in the selected project areas for food security. Till date, an amount of Rs. 47.22 lakhs has been released to the State Government of U.P. under this sub-programme. Besides, the Centrally Sponsored Scheme named "Accelerated Maize Development Programme (AMDP)" is also in operation in all the States, including UP., which have potential for cultivation of maize with the objective of increasing production and productivity. Since the inception of the AMDP in 1995-96, an amount of Rs. 388.904 lakhs has been released till date to the State Government of U.P. for implementation of the scheme.

Rail tour packages for tourists

† *298. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Railways have prepared special tour packages for the tourists visiting India;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the above packages are likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) to (c) There are no separate tourist packages for tourists visiting India. However, special ticketing and reservation arrangements are offered to foreign tourists through Indrail passes.

Some of the packages which the foreign tourists can avail are as follows:

(i) Palace on Wheels.

(ii) Royal Orient Express.

(iii) Fairy Queen Express.

† Original notice of the question v/as received in Hindi.